From the Past President

Relationships & Teamwork
by John LaBarge

Spring has arrived—well, at least it has on the calendar and not necessarily in terms of the temperatures outside! I trust all of you maintained great attitudes during the winter months, as I discussed in the last newsletter, and as a result, spring has arrived much quicker than anticipated. As I am writing this article, I am no longer Chapter President but am officially the immediate past president of our Chapter. Randy Brinks of Kent Companies is now our Chapter President, and I have no doubt that Randy will continue to lead and serve our local Chapter with the same level of excellence that he has in various other positions over the past few years.

During this time of transition, I have spent some time reflecting on my involvement with CFMA over the past few years. What is it that I have enjoyed the most and what has made my involvement in CFMA so rewarding? First of all, it would be the relationships that I have developed and fostered over the last few years. When I arrived at Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. (OAK) in the fall of 2002, I knew very few individuals in the construction industry. Being involved in CFMA has allowed me to meet and...
quickly develop relationships with a lot of people in the construction industry, including other general contractors, subcontractors, bankers, public accountants, insurance agents, etc. These relationships have not only benefitted our Chapter in attaining certain goals, but have also benefitted my own professional development and work responsibilities at OAK. If I have a question during the course of a work day, it is not unusual for me to contact one of my fellow CFMA members and seek out their opinion. I have found their opinions, thoughts, and counsel to be invaluable in many situations. In addition, some of these relationships have even evolved from strictly a CFMA or business relationship into real friendships—even with some of the other general contractors represented in our Chapter!

The second thing that has made my time so rewarding is the attitude of teamwork that permeates every CFMA committee and the Board of Directors. It is never a case of one person doing all of the work and the rest of the group doing nothing. Everyone pitches in, which makes the CFMA experience that much more fun and rewarding. As many of you know, our Chapter was recently awarded by National with the Chapter of the Year Award for chapters with 91 to 120 members. This is a fantastic award, and it wouldn’t have happened if our Chapter didn’t consist of a lot of people willing to get involved and give their best to our Chapter. So, thank you to those of you who have served on the Board of Directors, who have served on one of our committees (Golf Outing, Membership, Promotion or Program), who have helped organize a social event or a seminar, who have written articles for our newsletter, who have participated in a Roundtable group, who have attended our monthly general membership luncheons, etc. Many of you have actively participated in our Chapter for a number of years. All of your contributions have been enormous and have played a critical role in making our Chapter a truly great Chapter!

John LaBarge

We would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to Steve Huisjen for serving the board over the past 5 years as Director, Secretary, Vice President, President and Past President.
Your leadership has been a great contribution to our Chapter!
20th ANNUAL CFMA GOLF OUTING

PROCEEDS USED TO FUND EDUCATION OF CFMA MEMBERS AND TO SEND A CFMA MEMBER TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

DATE: Wednesday, June 1, 2011

FORMAT: Scramble, with Special Contests

PLACE: Railside Golf Club (Byron Center Ave & 76th Street, Byron Center, Mich.). NOTE: SOFT SPIKES ONLY

TIME  9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start, Registration at 8:15 a.m.

SOCIAL TIME: 1:30 p.m. Cookout Time: 2:00 p.m.

HOSTS: Construction Financial Management Association

COST: $85 Per Person (Includes Golf, Cart, Cookout and Door Prizes).

Call Jake at 698-0880 for Reservations; payment is required by Friday, May 27, 2011 to guarantee reservations. Space limited, so get your reservations in today.

We need golf and door prizes!!! If you or your company wishes to provide a door prize, please indicate below. We need your help to make this a successful outing.

GOLFERS (GUESTS ARE WELCOME. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A FOURSOME, WE WILL PAIR YOU UP)

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<th>NAME</th>
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DOOR PRIZES:

_____ YES, count us in! Our firm will be glad to bring a door prize to the outing.

_____ YES, please purchase a gift from our firm for $________. (You may add the amount to the golf and dinner charges above).

Number of persons attending golf and cookout _____ X $85 = $____ + $____ = $____

(Door Prize)

Signed: ____________________________ Company: ____________________________

Please mail or Fax ((616) 698-1850) this form as soon as possible to: CFMA, C/O Crowe Horwath, 55 Campau Ave NW Ste 300., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503. Make your check payable to CFMA.
CFMA is once again offering members the opportunity to sponsor our annual golf outing to be held June 1, 2011 at Railside Golf Club.

TEE SPONSORSHIPS: The cost to sponsor a tee is $125. Signs will be placed at each tee, limiting the number of sponsorships to 18. The first 18 responses will be honored.

Please fill out the form below and return with your check to:

CFMA
C/O Rohde Construction
4087 Brockton
Kentwood, Michigan 49512

Or fax the form to (616) 698-1850

Yes! We are interested in sponsoring the 20th annual golf outing.

Tee Sponsor or Golf Range Sponsor (circle one)

Company Name: ________________________________
Contact Person: ________________________________
E-mail Address: ________________________________
Phone Number: ________________________________
Fax Number: ________________________________

Payment Enclosed: ___ Yes ___ To Follow
CONGRATULATIONS!

West Michigan CFMA Chapter for winning the Chapter of the Year Award at the CFMA National Conference!

Save the Date: July 29

West Michigan Whitecaps vs. Lansing Lugnuts

Joint CFMA chapter event with the Lansing chapter. Fireworks
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Our community service project this year is collecting & preparing a day’s worth of Trail Mix for the Kids Food Basket. To the right is a list of the quantity of ingredients needed. Please consider picking up something from this list and bringing it to next General Membership Meeting or to the Golf Outing. Or if you’d rather not do the shopping, we will accept cash/check* donations and can do the shopping for you.

*Please make your check out to CFMA West Michigan and note “Kids Food Basket” in the memo line.
Welcome to the 2011/2012 Board of Directors

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John LaBarge
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Kent Companies
Vice President
Roger Tjoelker
Feyen Zylstra
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Wolverine Building Group

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Randy Brink
Kent Companies

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Harriet Perdue
Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.

Golf Committee Chairs
Jake Berzkalns
Rohde Construction
Rhonda Huismann
Crowe Horwath LLP

Thank You for your service!
We look forward to hearing from them on their experience at the conference and on the exam, in a future issue.